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Sojuzpatent,
Association of Patent Attorneys,
103735, 5/2 Ilyinka Str,
Moscow,
RUSSIA

COPY

30 November 1993

Our ref:PAS/CS/33442
Your ref:2403-109932

Dear Sirs,

Russian Patent Application No.5052280.13
of Philip Morris Products Inc.
Your ref:2403-109932/041 - Our file:33442

Thank you for your letter reporting an official action due for reply before 10th December.

For the preparation of the response we enclose a set of claims which is currently on file in the corresponding European Application. We propose that you should use the European claim 23 as claim 1 for the Russian application. This can be followed by claims 2 to 21 and 25 of the European claims. Claim 1 of the European claims should not be used. Because of the re-arrangement it will be necessary to replace "contacting" by "impregnation" in claims 8, 12, 16 and 27.

It will be seen that the new claim 1 for the Russian application corresponds fairly closely with the revised claim 1 listed by the Examiner and acknowledges the prior art as described in U.S. Patent No. 4,235,250. There are some minor differences. In particular the Examiner's proposal refers to saturation or a state close to saturation of the ambient medium with gaseous carbon dioxide. In fact the ambient medium is entirely gaseous carbon dioxide and the state of saturation is a state close to that at which the gas condenses. Secondly the claim makes it clear that after impregnation the pressure is released and subsequently the impregnated tobacco is heated to cause expansion.

The subject matter of previous independent claim 16 has been incorporated in the form of dependent claims. These dependent claims have been revised and rearranged for greater clarity and consistency with the disclosure in the body of the specification. It is hoped therefore that the specification is now in order for allowance.

Yours faithfully,

P.A.Smith

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